

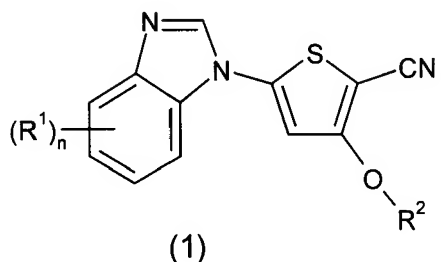
Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A compound of Formula (I):



wherein

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Each R^1 which may be the same or different, independently represents H, halogen or a group $(X)_a(Y)_bZ$;

X represents -O- or -CONH-;

a is 0 or 1;

Y represents -C₁₋₆ alkylene- ;

b is 0 or 1;

Z represents hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxyalkyl, or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxyalkyl;

R^2 represents a group $-(X^1)_c(Y^1)_dZ^1$,

wherein X^1 represents -C₁₋₁₂ alkylene-;

c is 0 or 1;

Y¹ represents -O-;

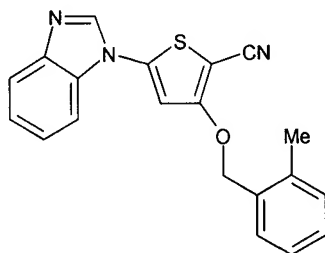
d is 0 or 1;

Z¹ represents H, aryl or heteroaryl each of which contains 5 - 14 ring atoms, C₅₋₇ heterocyclyl, C₅₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ cycloalkenyl, each of which aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, SO₂R³, or C₁₋₆ hydroxyalkyl; and

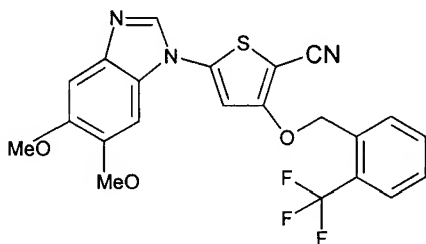
R³ represents H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates or physiologically functional derivatives thereof with the proviso that the compound is not:

5-(1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(2-methylphenyl)oxy]thiophene-2-carbonitrile



or 5-(5,6-bismethoxy-1*H*-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(2-trifluoromethyl)phenyl]oxy]thiophene-2-carbonitrile



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Claim 2 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 1 or 2.

Claim 3 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 2.

Claim 4 (Original): A compound according to claim 3 wherein one R¹ is – OCH₃.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A compound according to claim 3 wherein each R¹ is –OCH₃.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A compound according to claim 3 wherein each R¹ is –OCH₃ on position 5 and 6 of the ring.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein c is 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 1 wherein X¹ is C₁₋₆ ~~alkenyl~~ alkylene.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z¹ is aryl or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CF₃, CH₂OH, SO₂CH₃, CH₃, OCH₃.

Claim 10 (Original): A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-({[4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl]methyl}oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(1R)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)ethyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(1-methyl-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-6-yl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(6-(methyloxy)-5-([2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]oxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(2,5-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-(5-chloro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([(2,6-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-thiophenecarbonitrile

5-[5-[(3-hydroxypropyl)oxy]-6-(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy}-2-thiophene-carbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(3-bromo-4-pyridinyl)methyl]oxy}-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
1-[5-cyano-4-([2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl)oxy]-2-thienyl]- <i>N</i> -[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazole-5-carboxamide
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(1 <i>R</i>)-1-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]oxy}-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(2-phenylethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(2-[(trifluoromethyl)oxy]phenyl)methyl]oxy}-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-([2-(methyloxy)phenyl]methyl)oxy}-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(2-oxo-1-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(tetrahydro-2-furanylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(tetrahydro-2 <i>H</i> -pyran-2-ylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[2-(phenyloxy)ethyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[[(1 <i>S</i>)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)butyl]oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(3-thienylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(2-thienylmethyl)oxy]-2-thiophenecarbonitrile
5-[5,6-bis(methyloxy)-1 <i>H</i> -benzimidazol-1-yl]-3-[(1 <i>R</i>)-1-methylpropyl]oxy}-2-thiophenecarbonitrile

or a salt, solvate, or physiologically functional derivative thereof.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising: a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1, or a salt, solvate, or a physiologically functional derivative thereof and one or more of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and excipients.

Claims 12-18 (Cancelled):

19 (New): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising: a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 10, or a salt, solvate, or a physiologically functional derivative thereof and one or more of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and excipients.